

Min. of Health

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BOROUGH OF DROITWICH

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

and of the

BOROUGH SURVEYOR
and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR



for the year

1964

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MEMBERS OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL 1964/65

His Worship the Mayor	Councillor H. Roberts. J.P.
Deputy Mayor	" J. Baylis.
Aldermen	Mrs. J. M. Addenbrooke
	B. Inett.
	E. Shirley Jones
	J. A. Pittaway
Councillors	A.G.I. Cardno
	R.D.N. Fabricius
	S.B. Harris
	Mrs. T.D. Hammond
	Mrs. E.L. Hatchett
	A.W.S. Holloway
	R. Jolliffe
	H. McHenry
	V.H. Rohan.
	Mrs. A. Sandles

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THIS AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health	L.Spencer Stephens, M.B.,Ch.B., D.R.C.O.G., D.P.H.
Surveyor & Chief Public Health Inspector	Graham L.Robinson, M.I.Mun.E., M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A. Certificated Meat and Food Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector	Richard Hill. M.A.P.H.I. Certificated Public Health Inspector Certificated Meat & Food Inspector Certificates in Sanitary Science (Meat and Foods), Liverpool School of Hygiene.

Covercroft,
Droitwich.

August 1965.

The Mayor, Aldermen and Members of
the Droitwich Borough Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my 10th Annual Report on the health of the Borough for the year ended 31st December, 1964.

Certain changes have taken place in the Town since my arrival, but many of them seem more apparent than real. The Canal Scheme is said to be virtually complete yet few changes are evident in the Vines Park. However, I believe arrangements are being made to fill in the Canal in this locality shortly. I shall not be satisfied until I see the work completed.

Controversy has raged for many years over the question of Overspill. There seemed doubt at one time that it would ever become an established fact, but now that the Town Development agreement with Birmingham has been signed there is no turning back. Although the new Chawson Estate is not yet begun, there is definite evidence of newcomers elsewhere in the town. The Private Estates of St. Andrews, Appledore Rise and the Parklands have already made their impact upon the town. This is evident by the steadily increasing population of infants and school children.

A significant pointer to the imminent growth of the town is the number of attendances at the Infant Welfare Centre. The figures more than doubled from 2,336 in 1963 to 5,145 in 1964, and I would not be at all surprised to see them doubled again in the next four years. This indicates the urgent need for a new Clinic, and the County Council have already indicated that Droitwich will be given priority. The problem is the choice of a suitable site by the Development Committee, which will not be known until the Central Development Area Plan is published. Looking to the future it is also clear that nine or ten more General Practitioners will be required to serve a population of 30,000. Whether they will require a Health Centre or not has not really been considered yet, but should be settled at an early date if it is to be given a prominent place in the development of the town.

From the Public Health viewpoint, the most important step forward has been the appointment of a full-time Public Health Inspector. Mr. Hill has carried out a valuable years' work including a total of 1,276 inspections for a variety of purposes. Details are shown in the Chief Public Health Inspectors' Report. Much credit is also due to Mr. Robinson for the careful way he has re-organised the work and carried on through all difficulties. Unlike Surveying and Planning concrete results are not seen in Public Health. The reward is seen in the health and happiness of the community, and I can assure you that it is a great relief for me to know that at last sufficient time is being devoted to these duties.

I remain, Mr. Mayor,

Your obedient servant,

L.SPENCER STEPHENS,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION "A" - STATISTICS

Area	1735 acres
Registrar General's Estimate of resident population, mid-1964	8,160
Number of inhabited houses 1st April, 1964 (according to Rate books)	2,469
Rateable value at 1st April, 1964	£319,146
Sum represented by a Penny Rate 1964	£1,295.

The following are extracts from the vital statistics for the year:-

<u>Live Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	66	65	131
Illegitimate	4	6	10

Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births 7.1%

Standardised Birth Rate per 1,000 population ... 17.3

Birth Rate - England and Wales ... 18.4

<u>Still Births</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	2	-	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births 14.0

Still Birth Rate - England and Wales ... 16.3

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
	32	56	88

Standardised Death Rate per 1,000 population ... 8.5

Death Rate - England and Wales ... 11.3

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infantile Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... 14.2

Legitimate ... 15.3

Illegitimate ... -

Infantile Mortality Rate - England and Wales ... 20.0

Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks of age

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births ... 14.2

Neonatal Mortality Rate England and Wales ... 14.0

Maternal Deaths ... NIL

Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 live and still births NIL

<u>Primary Causes of Death</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>	<u>Total</u>
1. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	1	2	3
2. " " Lung, bronchus	1	-	1
3. " " Breast	-	4	4
4. " " Uterus	-	1	1
5. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	4	5
6. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
7. Diabetes	1	1	2
8. Vascular lesions of nervous system	4	21	25
9. Coronary disease, angina	7	8	15
10. Hypertension with heart disease	-	-	-
11. Other heart diseases	4	5	9
12. Other circulatory diseases	1	2	3
13. Influenza	-	-	-
14. Pneumonia	2	4	6
15. Bronchitis	3	2	5
16. Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-	-
17. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	-	-
18. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	1	-	1
19. Nephritis and Pephroses	1	-	1
20. Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
21. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-	-
22. Congenital malformations	1	-	1
23. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	1	5
24. Motor Vehicle accidents	-	-	-
25. All other accidents	1	1	2
26. Suicide	1	-	1
27. Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
	<u>32</u>	<u>56</u>	<u>88</u>

End of Section "A"

SECTION "B" - GENERAL PROVISION OF
HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

1. The following services are provided by the County Council:-

(a) Ambulance Service

The main Ambulance Station is situated at Worcester where a fleet of modern ambulances is manned day and night. The service is now under Radio Control which helps considerably in dealing with emergency calls.

A special ambulance for rheumatic cases is situated in Droitwich. This vehicle is equipped with special devices for the aid of crippled patients.

The hospital car service, manned by volunteers, is used to supplement the Ambulance Service.

Patients suffering from infectious diseases are conveyed in special ambulances which are stationed at the Isolation Hospital

(b) Home Help Service

This service is administered by the Women's Voluntary Services from their premises at No.1 Ombersley Street, on behalf of the County Council. The service provides domestic help for the aged in cases of illness, and for maternity cases during confinement.

There are now 1 full-time and 10 part-time Home Helps on the Register.

Payment for this service is made according to means.

During the year the following cases were assisted through this service:-

General	62 (110)
Maternity	15 (19)
Tuberculosis	2 -

(figures in brackets are for the previous year)

The introduction of a Meals on Wheels service twice a week to elderly people in the town has been greatly welcomed and is running successfully.

(c) Home Nursing and Health Visiting Service

Two District Nurse Midwives are stationed in the Borough. They attend booked domicillary midwifery cases and assist the General Practitioners with general nursing problems and injections in the home. There are also two part-time Health Visitors for the Borough whose main duties are the care of young children from 0-5 years, but they are also responsible for the health and welfare of the whole family. They attend the Infant Welfare and Ante-Natal Clinics and are in close contact with the Voluntary Services. A specialist Health Visitor is employed for visiting cases of Tuberculosis, and she operates from the Royal Infirmary, Worcester, where she is under the supervision of the Chest Physician in charge.

(d) Care of Expectant and Nursing Mothers and Young Children

The County Council's Infant Welfare Clinic is held every Tuesday afternoon in the Baptist Church Hall, Droitwich.

During the year 5,145 attendances were made at this Clinic compared with 2,336 the previous year.

There were 423 children (0-5 years) on the Register at 31st December, 1964.

The County Council's Ante-Natal clinic is now closed, but Parentcraft and Relaxation classes are held on alternate Thursdays for the benefit of mothers attending their General Practitioners. A physiotherapist, Midwives and Health Visitors are in attendance.

New Clinic premises are urgently required for both pre-school and school work, and it is hoped that work will proceed as soon as the Central Development Area plan for the Town is approved.

(e) Vaccination and Immunisation

Vaccination and immunisation can be carried out free of charge by the patient's own doctor, or at the County Council's Clinic.

The following inoculations were done during 1964.

(i) Diphtheria Immunisation

Number of children who received the full course of immunisation during the year 122 (119)

Number of children who received a first reinforcing dose during the year 147 (149)

Number of children who received a second reinforcing dose during the year 41 (35)

(ii) Whooping Cough Immunisation

Number of children who received a full course of immunisation during the year 159 (153)

Reinforcing doses are not normally considered to be necessary.

(iii) Vaccination against Smallpox

Number of persons who received a primary vaccination during the year 65 (82)

Number of persons who were re-vaccinated during the year 4 (38)
(figures in brackets relate to the previous year)

(iv) Poliomyelitis Vaccination

This scheme is administered directly by the County Council and details are available in the County Medical Officer's Annual Report. Sabin Vaccine is now being used, and is administered orally on a lump of sugar or syrup. This is routine procedure for babies of 3 months old, with a reinforcing dose at 5 years. Adults are also strongly advised to complete a primary course of vaccination.

(f) Welfare Services

The Welfare Services are administered by the Welfare Section of the Health Department under the direction of the County Welfare Officer. The following facilities are available:-

- (1) Residential accommodation for the elderly who are unable to look after themselves in their own homes.
- (2) Temporary accommodation for persons in urgent need.
- (3) Special services for blind persons.
- (4) Special services for deaf and dumb persons.
- (5) Special assistance for other handicapped persons.

(g) Mental Health Service

The Mental Health Department has been expanded to deal with the provision of the Mental Health Act, 1959. The Act abolishes the term Mental Deficiency and introduces the term Mental Disorder which includes severe subnormality, subnormality, mental illness and psychopathic disorder. Mental Welfare Officers have been appointed who act in conjunction with approved Medical Officers and the Hospital Services. Statutory duties of the County Council include:-

- (1) The provision of residential accommodation.
- (2) The provision of Centres or other facilities for training or occupation
- (3) The exercise of functions relating to persons placed under guardianship.
- (4) The provision of any ancillary or supplementary services for persons suffering from mental disorder.

(h) School Health Service

The County Council provides a comprehensive School Health Service. School Medical Officers visit all Primary and Secondary schools in the Borough at regular intervals. Every school child receives three medical examinations during his or her school life, but children in whom abnormalities are detected are seen more frequently. Visual activity and colour tests are given at 7-8 years old. An innovation is the routine testing of hearing with an Audiometer, in order to select children who are partially deaf for special investigation.

2. Hospitals

The following services are provided by the Birmingham Regional Hospital Board:-

- (i) The district is served by general hospitals in Worcester and Bromsgrove.
- (ii) Cases of Infectious disease are admitted to Newtown Isolation Hospital, Worcester. This hospital also accommodates cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis.
- (iii) Maternity cases which cannot be confined at home are admitted to Maternity Homes at Stourport, Bromsgrove or Ronkswood.
- (iv) The Town is well recognised as one of the leading centres for the treatment of Rheumatic diseases, and there is a flourishing Out-Patient Department situated at the Brine Baths. There are also two special hospitals reserved exclusively for treating the more severe cases of the disease, and both operate on a National basis, accepting cases from all over the country. Highfield Hospital has 60 beds and St. John's Hospital 64 beds. The average length of stay for a course of Hydrotherapy is three weeks but other modern methods of treatment are now being used and may necessitate the patient staying in much longer. A gadgets kitchen has also been set up at Highfield Hospital with a view to teaching the female patients in particular to overcome their physical disabilities in the home. Many other gadgets have been invented which enable patients to perform simple actions, which due to limitation of joint movement, would otherwise have to be done for them.
- (v) Psychiatric Hospitals for mental disorders are available at Powick, Worcester and Barnsley Hall, Bromsgrove.
- (vi) The Public Health Laboratory at Worcester Royal Infirmary is available to both General Practitioners and Local Authority Medical Officers for the examination of clinical and bacteriological specimens. Chemical Analysis of Water, Sewage, Food, Drugs, etc., are however carried out by the County Analyst.

SECTION "C" - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

1. Water Supply

(a) Quality and Quantity

The East Worcestershire (Droitwich Borough) Water Order 1960 transferred the Council's water undertaking to the East Worcestershire Waterworks Company. Certain improvements have been made since that date including the construction of a 150,000 gal. Water Tower at Yew Tree Hill adjacent to the reservoir. Pressures throughout the Town have improved. There has been no shortage of water and as can be seen from the results below, the quality has been quite satisfactory. The Engineer and Manager has supplied the following details of mains extensions completed in the Town during 1964:-

<u>E.M.No.</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Length</u>
529/A	Vines Lane	835 - yards. 8" A/C
		58 - yards 6" A/C
677/A	St.Andrew's Estate	200 - yards 3" A/C
725	Hanbury Road	400 - yards 4" A/C
		223 - yards 3" A/C
789	Ripple Road	62 - yards 3" S.I.
	St.Andrew's Estate	403 - yards 2" A/C
TOTAL		2,181 - yards

(b) Chemical and bacteriological examinations

The water is drawn from four boreholes near the Lickey Hills. Samples are taken from source by the Company at approximately fortnightly intervals, and spot checks taken in the town periodically. At all times during the year, the water was found to be satisfactory. Bacteriological results are shown on all four boreholes and a chemical analysis on one of them:-

Date	No. of Colonies Developing on Agar		Probable No. of Coliform Bacilli	Probable No. of Faecal Coli.	Ramarks.
14.12.64.	in 2 days at 37°C	in 3 days at 22°C			
	per 1 ml	per 1 ml	100 ml.	100 ml	
Washing- Stocks	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Satisfactory
Harward					
Wildmoor	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	"
No. 2					
Borehole					
Pump					
Burcot No.2	8	20	Nil	Nil	"
Brockhill					
No.2	1	10	Nil	Nil	"
Borehole					
Pump					

Wildmoor No.2.

Chemical Analysis

7th December, 1964.

Colour Colourless

Odour None

Deposit None pH 6.7

Parts per million

Suspended Matter (Dried at 100° C)

Total dissolved Solids (Dried at 180°C)

Chlorine Present as Chloride

155

11

Cont/d.

Wildmoor No.2

Chemical Analysis

7th December, 1964

Parts per million

Hardness	Non-Carbonate	20
"	Carbonate	74
"	Total	94
Ammoniacal Nitrogen		6.01
Albuminoid Nitrogen		0.02
Nitrate Nitrogen		4.5
Nitrite Nitrogen		Nil
Permanganate Value (4 hours at 27°C)		0.15
Toxic Metals		None detected
Residual Chlorine		Nil
Synthetic Detergents (as Manoxol)		-
Phosphates (as PO ₄)		-
Free Carbon Dioxide		15

Analyst's Report

The sample is fit for drinking.

(c) Toxic Metals

The water has no plumbo-solvent action but is fairly hard. Evidence of a fairly high copper content (2.0 p.p.m) was discovered in a large block of flats. This was not due to the borehole water but due to the installation of new copper piping, being heaviest at first draw-off in the morning. There is no danger to health, and the content should fall considerably when the service has been in use some time.

(d) Contamination

No action was necessary during the year.

(e) Number of dwelling houses supplied

Only a few houses close to the Borough Boundary have to rely on well water as shown below:-

Number of houses supplied with Mains water	2,455.
Number of houses using standpipes	7
Number of houses using well water	7

2. Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

The need for a new Sewage disposal works for the expanded town (of 30,000 population) has now been well established. A Public Inquiry in February 1963 resulted in authority being given for the purchase of suitable land at Ladywood, which has now been acquired. A further Inquiry was held in January 1965 into the Engineering details of the proposed works, and approval in principle was received from the Ministry. Nevertheless, there is likely to be a delay of some 4 - 5 years before it is completed.

Considerable thought was given during the year to the provision of temporary measures to cater for the continued development of the town in the interim period. *The Severn River Board had drawn attention to the poor standard of effluent issuing from the existing works, and intimated that they would not be satisfied to see further housing development taking place without immediate provision being made. A visit to the Ministry by the Surveyor and Consulting Engineer resulted in the suggestion that the most economic method of dealing with a comparatively large volume of sewage over a short period would be by the provision of a Pasveer ditch. This method has been used extensively in Holland, and fortunately a section of the disused canal adjacent to the existing Sewage Works could be used for this purpose. The proposal is to construct a lagoon some 35 ft wide and 450 ft long together with a final settlement tank about 40 ft in diameter. The raw sewage is circulated, lifted and aerated by means of rotating paddles and finally allowed to settle before the final effluent is allowed to discharge into the River.

Sewerage & Sewage Disposal cont/d

Sludge drying is necessary but quite a large area of land is available for this purpose at the works. Another advantage is that the new development at Chawson which is the 1st stage of the Overspill scheme can be dealt with via existing Sewers flowing to the newly constructed pumping station at Wheelers Bridge with rising main to the works. Some 250,000 gallons of crude sewage per day could be dealt with by this method. In view of the fact that the Ministry of Housing and Local Government looks upon this proposal favourably it seems unlikely that the Severn River Board will raise objections to this temporary measure which would be terminated as soon as the new Sewage Disposal works at Ladywood is completed.

3. Refuse Disposal

There is very little land now available for controlled tipping at the existing Borough Refuse Tip adjacent to the King George V Playing Fields. Negotiations with Droitwich Rural District Council for the use of their tip at Briar Coppice, Westwood have now been successful. The combined use of this tip is likely to be for a temporary period only, as other proposals are being formulated to provide for overspill development.

The condition of the Borough Tip has been far more satisfactory than in previous years and the presence of flies less evident. Refusal to allow the indiscriminate tipping of trade waste has helped matters.

4. Public Health Inspections

A large number of varied inspections were carried out by the Public Health Inspectors during the year. These involved problems related to Drainage, Clean air, Caravans, Factories, Rodent Control etc. and details are included in the Report of the Surveyor and Chief Public Health Inspector.

The registration of premises under the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act 1963 involved a considerable amount of work, but has been well worthwhile. Shopkeepers are now fully aware of the improved standards required of them and the majority have already complied with the standards laid down.

5. Rodent Control

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act 1949.
Report for 12 months ended 31st December, 1964.

TYPE OF PROPERTY

	<u>Local Authority</u>	<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	<u>All other including Business & Industrial</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>	<u>Agricultural</u>
1. Total No. of Properties in Borough	9	2469	210	2688	9
2. No. of properties inspected as a result of:-					
(a) Notification	4	37	10	51	1
(b) Survey under the Act	9	310	21	340	1
(c) Otherwise	-	-	-	-	-
3. No. of properties inspected (in Section II) found to be infected by:					
(a) <u>Rats</u>					
Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	8	58	17	83	1
(b) <u>Mice</u>					
Major	-	-	-	-	-
Minor	-	9	10	19	-
4. No. of infested properties (in Sect.IV) treated	8	67	27	102	1
5. No. of notices served under Section 4 of Act					
(a) Treatment	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
(b) Structural work (i.e. Proofing)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

End of Section "C"

SECTION "D" - HOUSING

The following tables show the work carried out in the town on Housing and Slum Clearance during 1964.

A. Number of new houses erected:-

(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	143

B. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year:-

(1) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (Under Public Health Act)	102.
(2) Number of re-inspections	123.
(3) Under the Housing Acts.	
Number of inspections.	46
Number of re-inspections.	86
(4) Visits. Preliminary Housing Surveys	253

C. Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(1) <u>Under the Public Health Acts</u>	
(a) Number of notices served.	11
(b) Number of cases in which defects were remedied after the service of such notices	
(i) By owners	11
(ii) By Local Authority	Nil
(2) <u>Under the Housing Act 1957</u>	
(a) Notices served for repairs (Section 9)	Nil
(b) Number of notices served (Section 16)	10
(c) Number of undertakings accepted	Nil
(d) Number of demolition or closing orders made (Section 17)	10
(e) Number of houses demolished during the year	10

D. Overcrowding (Part IV Housing Act 1957)

(1)(a) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	<u>1964</u> 10
(b) Number of families dwelling therein	16
(c) Number of persons dwelling therein	89
(2)(a) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	4
(b) Number of persons concerned in such cases	16
(c) Number of houses again overcrowded after being previously relieved	Nil
(3) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	2

End of Section "D"

SECTION "E" - Inspection & Supervision of Food

More regular routine inspection of Food Premises was carried out than in previous years. Details of the types of premises visited are shown under the heading of "Food Hygiene" in the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector. Greater attention was paid to butchers shops, bakehouses, restaurants, cafes and ice-cream premises. No meat inspection was necessary as there are no licensed Slaughterhouses in the town, the Butchers dealing with the Abattoirs at Worcester and Bromsgrove.

There is one manufacturer of Ice-cream in the town and thirty five retailers. The sale of the Soft-Mix product has increased recently, and there are three different manufacturers operating vehicles in the area. The Grading of this product is not so satisfactory as the hard ice-cream. Difficulties are encountered with the cleansing and sterilization of the Swedish freezer on these mobiles, a job which has to be carried out daily. In the majority of cases a high quality mix is despatched from the factory, only to be spoiled while it is being dispensed to the consumer. This is borne out by the results shown below but I am sure it is not peculiar to Droitwich and other Authorities could produce similar records.

	<u>No. of Samples taken.</u>	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>Grade 2.</u>	<u>Grade 3.</u>	<u>Grade 4.</u>
<u>HARD ICE-CREAM</u>	13	13	-	-	-
<u>SOFT ICE-CREAM</u>	8	2	3	2	1
<u>MANUFACTURERS</u> <u>SAMPLES</u>	21	15	-	6	-

(made at various stages along production line).

Milk and Dairies are no longer the responsibility of the District Council, dealers licences being issued by Worcestershire County Council who are the Food and Drugs Authority. The Milk (Special Designation) Regulations are under the control of the County Public Health Inspector. Monthly sampling is carried out and he is good enough to supply us with his results as follows:-

	<u>No. of Samples Taken.</u>	<u>Results</u>
Pasteurised Milk	11	All satisfactory.
Sterilized Milk	-	-
Raw Tuberculin Tested Milk	8	All satisfactory.

Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests are used, or Guinea Pig inoculation if considered necessary.

Chemical sampling for fatty and non-fatty solids is carried out by the County Analyst.

Examination of Foodstuffs

The following foodstuffs were found unfit for human consumption and surrendered voluntarily by the owners:-

- 20 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs of Pineapple Pieces.
- 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs of Tomato Juice.
- 6 lbs of Corned Beef.
- 4 lbs of Chopped Pork.
- 4 lbs of Cooked Ham.
- 13 lbs of Peach Slices.
- 13 lbs of tinned Grapefruit.
- 14 lbs of canned ham.
- 28 lbs of butter.

End of Section "E".

SECTION "F"

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES - 1964

Notifiable Diseases

Particulars of cases of infectious disease which occurred during the year are shown in the following table.

<u>Age Group</u>	<u>Measles</u>	<u>Whooping Cough</u>	<u>Pulmonary Tuberculosis</u>	<u>Polio-myelitis</u>	<u>Scarlet Fever</u>	<u>Food Poisoning</u>
Under 1 year	1	-	-	-	-	-
1 - 2 years	9	-	-	-	-	-
3 - 4 years	3	-	-	-	-	-
5 years +	4	-	-	-	-	-
10 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-
20 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-
35 years +	-	-	-	-	-	-
45 and over	-	-	2	-	-	1
Totals	17	-	2	-	-	1

The number of cases of tuberculosis on the Register during 1964 are shown below:-

	<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>	<u>M</u>	<u>F</u>
Number of cases of Tuberculosis on register at 1st January 1964.	8	4	-	-
Additions to register during the year				
- new cases	2	-	-	-
- Transfers	-	2	-	-
	<u>10</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Deductions from register during the year	<u>3</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Number of cases on register at 31st December, 1964	<u>7</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>

The After Care Committee for South Worcestershire met on two occasions during 1964. The word "Tuberculosis" has been omitted from the title of this Committee and its constitution amended in order to cover the After Care of illness generally, but too few applications for assistance are still being received.

End of Section "F"

SECTION "G".

ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT.1961.

Inspections for the purpose of provisions as to health were made as follows:-

<u>Premises.</u>	<u>No. on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>	<u>Written Notices.</u>	<u>Occupiers Prose</u>
1. Factories in which Secs.1,2, 3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
11. Factories not included in (1) in which Sec.7 is enforced by Local Authority.	54	47	5	Nil
111. Other Premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers Premises)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
TOTAL	54	47	5	Nil

CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

<u>Particulars.</u>	<u>Number of cases in which defects were found.</u>				<u>No of Cases in which Prose were instituted</u>
	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to HM Inspector.</u>	<u>By H.M. Factory Inspector.</u>	
Want of cleanliness.					
Unreasonable Temperature.					
Overcrowding.					
Inadequate Ventilation.					
Ineffective drainage of Floors.					
Sanitary Conveniences.					
a. Insufficient.					
b. Unsuitable or defective.	6	6	Nil	2	Nil
c. Not separate for sexes.					

Number of Outworkers. Nil.

End of Section "G".

Borough Surveyor's Department,
Covercroft,
Droitwich.

August, 1965.

To the Chairman and Members of the
Droitwich Town Council.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my 20th Annual Report which, this year, I have related it primarily to the work of the Borough Surveyor, and the Medical Officer of Health's Report includes duties carried out by the Public Health Inspectors.

It is with regret that I have to record that Mr. E. Todd who has been in your service as Assistant Engineer & Surveyor for many years and had more recently become Building Surveyor, fell ill in October and is still off duty, with his date of return quite unknown.

Once again I would thank your Council for your continued support, the assistance I have received from other Officers and the loyal co-operation from all the staff of the Department.

At the beginning of 1964 your Council reviewed the staffing of the Department in the light of expansion and the introduction of Town Development. As a result, an additional Public Health Inspector together with Deputy Borough Surveyor and Senior Assistant Engineer were appointed. With the appointment of an additional Public Health Inspector more systematic and routine Public Health work has become possible as will be seen by a perusal of the Reports.

Visits of Inspection

Inspections made by the Public Health Inspectors are listed below, and from which the Council will note the routine work relating to housing and food hygiene which has been accomplished in the main by Mr. Hill.

Accumulations found	5
Animals kept. Piggeries	5
Visits. Pet Animals Act	2
<u>Drainage</u>	
Drains found choked	5
Drains tested	6
Drains found defective	2
Visits to Works in Progress	10
<u>Dwelling Houses</u>	
Visits re Improvement Grants	179
re Repairs and Public Health	102
Repairs. Re-inspections	123
Housing Act. Inspections	46
" " Re-inspections	86
<u>Rodent Control</u>	
Primary visits	15
Re-visits	15
Infectious disease enquiries	4
Factory Act visits	48
Visits to houses in Multiple Occupation	9

<u>Food Hygiene</u>	Visits to:	
	Butchers Shops	49
	Bakehouses	23
	Confectioners Shops	21
	Greengrocers	12
	Fried Fish Shops	7
	Ice Cream Shops and Manufacturers	97
	Restaurants, Cafes, Hotel & School kitchens	44
	Factory Canteens	7
	Licensed Premises	33
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act. Visits		22
Clean Air Act. Visits.		15
Water supplies. Visits.		4
Council Tip. Visits.		38
Caravans. Visits.		17
Visits to Lido		12
Council House Repairs Visits		68
Miscellaneous Visits		155

Housing

10 houses were represented to the Borough Council as being unfit, and 8 Demolition and 2 Closing Orders were made. A start was made upon the Hill End area of the town which contains quite a number of obsolete dwellings and lends itself for re-planning.

Woodfield Terrace had been inspected, one of the major housing units at Hill End and was receiving the consideration of the Council.

COUNCIL HOUSES

Improvement of 32 houses (see report under Improvement Grants)

Manning Road Houses

The improvement and modernisation of 39 pre-war Council Houses situated in Manning Road has commenced.

House Painting

135 houses were painted during the year by contract, for which tenders from selected contractors were invited. This method of tendering has proved very successful in recent years.

General

Time taken for the management of Council Houses is becoming much greater, particularly because tenants at present tend to look upon the Borough Council, owners of the property, as being a body to which they can bring all their troubles, disagreements and complaints. The Housing Manager has to endeavour to sort them out to the best of his ability. This may or may not be a good thing, but it undoubtedly takes up a tremendous amount of time in the number of interviews which take place as a result.

Similarly, the amount of work in the nature of repairs which have to be undertaken in Council houses, appears to increase and this of course is reflecting in the increase in expenditure and the balance of the Housing Revenue account.

New Housing

A start was made upon the Hanbury Road Estate and the sewer and road construction carried out, and the first dwellings commenced. It is proposed to build 56 three bedroom houses and 25 bungalows including a Warden's bungalow at this estate. The bungalows are proving very popular, and there is a considerable waiting list, many applicants will not be fortunate enough to obtain a tenancy at present.

Private Building

The year 1964 saw the largest amount of private building undertaken in the Borough since records have been kept. 143 houses being completed and 114 underway at the end of the year.

Generally speaking the private houses built are of a good standard and consisted of four main Estates supplemented by a number of individual plots of infilling. Due to the insufficiency of the Sewage Works, the Borough Council had to reach a decision to refuse planning permission to any further private development except infilling until the date of the Ladywood Works coming into operation could be foreseen.

Whilst this seemed very difficult, in the long run, it may well prove advantageous for the better planning of the Borough for private development not springing up too hurriedly.

Covercroft

As a result of action under the Housing Acts, 8 houses were vacated following the making of individual Demolition Orders, the Council purchased the property concerned and the premises were demolished.

At the same time, the Council acquired the adjoining detached house known as "Abbeycroft" which is in very poor condition and occupied by a number of tenants, as lodgers. At the end of the year it was hoped that the tenants could be re-housed and the building eventually demolished.

Improvement Grants

Lock Cottage, Ladywood

This cottage which was acquired by the Borough Council when taking over the Canal fell vacant in 1963 and as a result you undertook a major improvement scheme, providing a bathroom containing bath washbasin and W.C., re-draining the house to a septic tank, connecting the water supply from the adjoining public main with the general improvement and modernisation of the living conditions. This work was completed in 1964 and a tenant with his family of five took occupation.

32 Houses, Holloway Road/Pridzor/Vines Lane

A notable improvement was carried out to the Council's own property with the completion of the improvement of 32 houses consisting of the 1919 scheme in Pridzor Road, and the Holloway, and the 1913 scheme in Vines Lane. This improvement which reflects considerable credit and forward thinking upon the Borough Council, took a great deal of negotiation on the part of the Housing Committee and its officers in persuading tenants to temporarily leave their homes whilst they were improved, some of the tenants being permanently re-housed elsewhere, but this was eventually carried out without recourse to any legal enforcement and the improvements were completed to the general satisfaction of the tenants. There is no doubt that the improvements resulted in good modern houses, much more efficient and comfortable for the housewife and the family.



Manning Road Improvements

On the completion of this scheme, the Council embarked upon the improvement of 39 houses in Manning Road. In this case except for 8 houses, the improvements were not so extensive, but even so, considerable inconvenience is caused to the tenants, but where they have been completed, general satisfaction has been expressed.

This policy of gradual improvement and modernisation of the pre-war houses, will take the Council some years to complete, but it is undoubtedly well worth while.

Improvement Grants Generally

The following properties were the subject of improvement grants during 1964.

Improvement Grants

Standard

"The Poplars", Ombersley Road	-	£81.	3.	11.
"Briar Mill", Ombersley Road	-	£81.	4.	6.
Primsland Farm.	-	£45.	0.	0.

Discretionary

4, St. Nicholas Street	-	£204.	10.	0.
6, St. Nicholas Street	-	£182.	5.	0.
15, North Street	-	£375.	0.	0.
42 Westcroft Street	-	£193.	0.	0.
38, High Street	-	£217.	10.	0.
Coventry Almshouses	-	£1,464.	0.	0.

New Offices

The new offices at Covercroft have now been in use for a year and have proved of inestimable value both from the point of view of work carried out and the conditions under which the staff have been able to work. The new offices are greatly appreciated by everyone, including members of the public who have business in them.

Refuse Collection

This work has continued throughout the year and is of course much extended in its demands as the number of houses in the town increase. The gang of driver and four men has to be supplemented with another man on certain days of the week, and the old standby refuse lorry is used to collect refuse from hotels and certain new properties. Nevertheless, a complete and regular collection of the whole town is made each week, and very few complaints are received. There is no doubt that you have a good company of men carrying out this unpleasant duty.

Salvage Collection

The following salvage has been collected during the past year and sold as stated:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qts.	£.	s.	d.
Mixed waste paper	25	5	2	198.	2.	5.
Scrap iron	4	2	1	50.	18.	0.

I think that much more salvage could be collected, but to do this, some form of incentive bonus scheme will have to be introduced in order to give an incentive to the men engaged on the work. At the present time, some salvage is collected by the refuse collectors, but in the main it is collected by special visit half day per week from business premises in the town. Difficulty has been experienced in finding enough labour to bale the paper salvaged and this has normally to be done on Saturday morning.

Refuse Tip

I called the Council's attention to the fact that this refuse tip was nearing completion and although I had made a careful and detailed survey of all sites within some three miles radius of Droitwich, possible sites were found to be very few.

The most suitable was the Hanbury Wharf Brick Company's pit, a possible second one at Hadley Mill, where it would probably have been necessary to install some form of pulverisation. Arising from this report, the Borough Council discussed the matter with the Rural District Council and it was agreed that the Rural Council would endeavour to obtain rights to tip in the Hanbury Wharf pit, when if such rights were forthcoming, the Rural Council would be prepared to receive refuse from the Borough. Further, if this right was obtained, then the Borough Council would be allowed to tip at Briar Coppice tip belonging to the Rural District Council in Ombersley Road. Tipping would then cease near the King George Playing Field. Negotiations were opened up with the Hanbury Brick Company and were progressing.

Efforts were made during the year to maintain your Borough tip in good condition and particular care was given to the prevention of any fly nuisance arising from the tip.

Sewage Works

I can only report that the conditions at the sewage works are much as in previous years, the works being still very overloaded. The Manager does good work in maintaining the works in such a condition that at least to the eye, the effluent seems clear and satisfactory. In fact on chemical analysis, the effluent is not satisfactory. The Severn River Authority called your attention as it did to other local authorities in the County, that before further development continued in the town, improvement to the sewage works should be made. Following discussions with the Ministry, it has been decided to construct a 'Pasveer' ditch (which is a form of oxidation plant) in the Canal adjacent to the Sewage Works, which will supplement the present works and receive the drainage from the new Chawson Estate. This is a short term scheme to be maintained in operation only until the new Ladywood works have been completed. A Ministry Inquiry was awaited at the end of the year into the engineering details of the Ladywood works, but it will inevitably be some years before the new works come into full operation.

Lido

The old No.1 filter was dismantled and scrapped and a new filter erected by United Filters & Engineering Ltd. and brought into use before the opening of the season. I am glad to be able to report that the plant functioned very satisfactorily during the year and no particular troubles were encountered. It is hoped to improve the footbaths for the 1965 season.

It is very apparent that any open air Swimming Pool, whilst serving a use and meeting a large demand in good weather, has no attraction in cold or wet periods, and though at one time it was felt that by introducing heated water in the pool, people would be attracted during poor periods of weather, I think that with the coming of modern indoor pools, in nearby towns, people who are inclined to swim would go to these pools rather than go into an open air pool in unpleasant weather conditions.

Your Council are becoming appreciative of this point and over the year have from time to time considered whether a moveable screen and/or roof could be installed at the Lido. There is no doubt that this would spoil the appearance of the pool, and therefore the Council have come to the conclusion, which I feel is a wise one, that the best plan for the future would be to build a new indoor pool in close proximity to the present Lido, using them in conjunction with each other, and probably providing additional indoor all year round sports facilities at the new establishment.

1870

1. The first part of the book is devoted to a general history of the subject, and to a description of the various methods which have been employed for its study. The second part is devoted to a detailed description of the various methods which have been employed for its study. The third part is devoted to a detailed description of the various methods which have been employed for its study.

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Lido cont/d

Draft plans are being prepared for such a project.

Park

The Park has been maintained in good order. Labour is proving more and more difficult to obtain. The introduction of a Park Keeper has resulted in much less vandalism taking place in the Park.

The Automatic Barrier Arms for car parking have proved useful and as the public have become used to them, little trouble has been experienced.

I feel that it is desirable that Heriotts Pool, which is the Council's property, should be dredged and thoroughly cleaned in the not too far distant future.

Canal Scheme

The long awaited Canal Scheme was commenced and continued during the year with the laying of a brine drain and surface water drain down Winnetts Lane and the construction of the brine reservoir and extension of the storm drains to flow into the River.

The problem of the Canal at Salwarpe was still with the Council. The Rural District Council had extended the foul drain which discharged into the Canal from a farm at Salwarpe, and it was hoped that some improvement would result. With the approval of the Severn River Board, the banks of the Canal were breached at suitable points on both sides of the Canal Bridge in Salwarpe and this allowed the Canal to be drained off. A number of lagoons, however, remained in the Canal and as the mud at the bottom dries out, efforts will have to be made to drain off these lagoons.

'Bus Shelters

The Borough Council decided to provide 'bus shelters for the convenience of users at Queen Street, Witton Post Office and on the west side of the A.38 near Oakland Avenue. This in several instances required the acquisition of land which inevitably held up the work. Proposals were before the Council before the end of the year.

Highways

The new road along the line of the old bridle way and giving access from Victoria Square to the Ninefootway service road and thence to St. Andrew's Close and on to St. Andrew's House Estate was commenced. Many difficult legal negotiations had to be overcome by the Town Clerk and work was held up for some period, but by the end of the year this road was well in hand and should prove a great boon to people living in that part of the Town. St. Andrew's Close was completed and the road made up and access on to the new road already mentioned was joined.

To endeavour to improve the safety of pedestrians in Old Coach Road, with the co-operation of the Education Committee, a temporary footpath was made on the South side inside the school playing field. In due course when Old Coach Road is improved and widened, this footpath will be taken up and re-laid in its permanent position.

The much used footpath running from Old Coach Road Southwards to Copcut Lane was paved from its junction with Witton Avenue through to the Primary School and the Chawson Estate.

The triennial surface dressing to the whole of the highways in the Borough was carried out satisfactorily during last summer.

Great plans are being prepared for such a project.

Back

The Park has been maintained in good order. Labour is proving more and more difficult to obtain. The introduction of a Park Ranger has resulted in much less vandalism taking place in the Park.

The Institute further aims for our gardens have proved useful and as the public have become used to them, little trouble has been experienced.

I feel that it is desirable that Harrogate Road, which is the Council's property, should be dredged and thoroughly cleaned in the not too far distant future.

Canal Scheme

The long awaited Canal Scheme was continued and continued during the year with the laying of a main drain and surface water drain down Whitcliffe Lane and the construction of the main sewerage and extension of the main drain to flow into the River.

The problem of the Canal at Salwarpe was still with the Council. The Council had extended the main drain which discharged into the Canal from a farm at Salwarpe, and it was hoped that some improvement would result. With the approval of the Government Board, the banks of the Canal were protected at suitable points on both sides of the Canal bridge in Salwarpe and this allowed the Canal to be cleared out. A number of inquiries, however, remained in the Canal and at the end of the bottom rises out, efforts will have to be made to drain off these inquiries.

Bus Shelter

The Borough Council decided to provide a bus shelter for the convenience of users at Green Street, Wharfedale Road Office and on the west side of the A.16 near Oldham Avenue. This is several instances regarding the completion of work which has already been done. Proposals were before the Council before the end of the year.

Highways

The new road along the line of the old railway way and giving access from Wharfedale Square to the Wharfedale railway road and thence to St. Andrew's Close and on to St. Andrew's House Station was commenced. Many difficult legal negotiations had to be carried out by the Council and work was held up for some period, but by the end of the year the road was well in hand and should prove a great boon to people living in that part of the Town. St. Andrew's Close was completed and the road made up and access on to the new road already mentioned was gained.

To endeavour to improve the safety of pedestrians in Old Green Road, with the co-operation of the Townspeople Committee, a temporary footpath was made on the south side inside the school playing field. In the course of Old Green Road is improved and widened, this footpath will be taken up and re-laid in its permanent position.

The much used footpath running from Old Green Road Southwards to Copcut Lane was paved from the junction with Union Avenue through to the primary school and the Greenway Estate.

The binomial surface appearing to the whole of the highway in the Borough was carried out satisfactorily during last summer.

Highways Cont/d

The maintenance of highways and their regular cleansing is proving a difficult problem, primarily owing to the shortage of labour prepared to take up this kind of work. A great deal of the normal maintenance work of highways had to be carried out through contractors, primarily because the contractor can obtain labour by paying bonuses which the Borough Council do not at present do. Whether this is an expensive way of having maintenance work carried out is a matter which would be worth investigation.

The problem of street cleansing is a very similar one, and at the end of the year a report was being prepared for the Borough Council to consider the introduction of mechanical street sweeping methods.

King George Playing Field and Poplars Meadow

The King George Playing Field was much used during the year and Poplars Meadow was brought into use for a few matches for the first time. This latter field is settling down well and should become a great asset to the Town. The Cricket Club are taking a lot of interest in the Poplars field and helping in the maintenance.

Unfortunately a fire occurred in the Poplars Pavilion towards the end of the year, which was discovered, fortunately, before it had developed too far and was able to be put out. Nevertheless, extensive damage took place. The loss was covered by Insurance, and reinstatement of the pavilion will be completed before the next season.

The old entrance to the Playing Fields which was in very bad condition was re-designed and widened and two plaques, one presented by Alderman Jones consisting of the Borough Arms and the original King George Playing Field plaque were fixed to the new fencing one on each side.

I am, Your Worship, Ladies and Gentleman,

Your obedient servant,

GRAHAM L. ROBINSON,

Borough Engineer & Surveyor.

LSS/MGM/EMH.
GLR/MGM/EMH.

